

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An energy absorbing steering column sleeve comprising:
a tubular body defined by a plurality of channels extending from an end of said tubular body to an opposite end thereof.
2. The energy absorbing steering column sleeve of claim 1, wherein said channels have a hexagonal cross section.
3. The energy absorbing steering column sleeve of claim 1, wherein said channels have a diamond cross section.
4. The energy absorbing steering column sleeve of claim 1, wherein said channels have a triangular cross section.
5. The energy absorbing steering column sleeve of claim 1, wherein said tubular body is made of aluminum.
6. The energy absorbing steering column sleeve of claim 1, wherein said tubular body collapses substantially uniformly when compressed.

7. A steering column for a motor vehicle comprising:
an upper mounting bracket adapted to be mounted to the motor vehicle;
a lower mounting bracket extending from said upper mounting bracket;
and
a sleeve mounted between said lower mounting bracket and said upper mounting bracket, said sleeve having a plurality of hollow channels;
wherein during an impact event with the motor vehicle, said upper mounting bracket compresses said sleeve and said sleeve collapses, thereby absorbing energy from the impact event.
8. The energy absorbing steering column sleeve of claim 7, wherein said channels have a hexagonal cross section.
9. The energy absorbing steering column sleeve of claim 7, wherein said channels have a diamond cross section.
10. The energy absorbing steering column sleeve of claim 7, wherein said channels have a triangular cross section.
11. The energy absorbing steering column sleeve of claim 7, wherein said tubular body is made of aluminum.

12. The energy absorbing steering column sleeve of claim 7, wherein said tubular body collapses substantially uniformly when compressed.